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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 28 | Min 20 | Humidity 70% Scattered Thunderstorms Sensex 66,023 | Nifty 19,674 | Gold 58,764 | Silver 72,568 | Dollar 83.17 | Euro 88.04 | GBP 101.48

BANDH UPDATES

All you need to know about today's bandh and if there are more slated this week

PAGE 2

JUNCTIONS AWAITED

5 months after announcement of grand plan for safe junctions, we are still waiting

PAGE 3

Forest department claims 8 lakh saplings were planted in city this year, but it is hard to know where they are and how they are doing

SO FAR, SO GOOD'

Forest Minister proposes geo-tagging plants; citizens want better nurturing

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Have you noticed a spurt in greenery in Bengaluru? We ask because the forest department claims to have planted/ or outsourced the planting of 8 lakh saplings across the city. Questions, however, loom over their survival and also on where they were planted exactly. The latest plan is to geo tag these plants to understand their exact status better.

In response to the uncertainty surrounding these saplings, Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre has called for a sapling audit. According to the forest department, they have planted 1,02,848 saplings in BBMP limits, while 7,26,767 were sold to individuals, presumably for self-planting. In total, a staggering 8,29,615 saplings are expected to be planted in BBMP limits.

An official said, "Previously, we used to accept the forest department's reports on sapling planting without question. There was no mechanism to track where these

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

"The proximity of these plants to busy roads means they are frequently covered in dust and pollutants. This accumulation of dust can obstruct the plant's ability to photosynthesise and thrive, potentially hindering their growth –Rukmini Devi, citizen

Streams of consciousness

Activist revives 10 cascading lakes of E-City, Jigani that are all connected and flow into Dakshina Pinakini River

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Lake activist Anand Malligavad has been pursuing one goal this year -- to rejuvenate cascading lakes starting from Electronic City stream and those from Jigani Industrial Area going towards Dakshina Pinakini River. In the process, he has successfully restored over 10 lakes that have been lying in a neglected state for many years.

From Electronic City, the lake stream starts from the Shikaripalya Lake to Maragondanahalli Lake and connects to Tirupalya Lake, Hebbagodi, Kammasandra Lake, Bommasandra Lake, Heelalige Lake, Chandapura, Muthanallur, Bidaraguppe from where it then goes to Dakshina Pinakini or Penne river.

While from the Jigani industrial area another streamline starts from Kallubalu Lake, Vaderamanchanahalli Lake, and then connects to Konasandra Lake to Dyavasandra lake and then to Hennagara Lake and further to the Kachanayakanahalli Lake, and it then joins to Chandapura Lake.

According to Malligavad, these are two streams that are said to be highly polluted due to the industrial pollutants getting into the lakes. "For instance, the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Classical moment

Natanam Institute of Dance presents Daasaru Kanda Krishna by Acharya Dr Raksha Karthik and her disciples. The event aims to portray the life of Lord Sri Krishna through an amazing performance, accompanied by detailed classical music.
Where: Yuvaka Sangha, Yuvapatha 4, 31st Cross, 11th MainRoad, 4th Block, Jayanagar
When: Saturday, September 30; 5 pm to 8:30 pm

02 Artful event

Get the chance to attend an art exhibition that features over 50 captivating works by Shan Re and Romicon Revola. Gallery G is hosting Floral Symphony: A Celebration of Nature's Canvas, which pays homage to the beauty of nature and promotes environmental sustainability.
Where: Gallery G, Lavelle Road
When: until September 30; 10 am to 7 pm

03 Rocking performace

Don't miss the chance to attend an exclusive performance by the legendary rock band, Motherjane. The band is all set to ignite hearts with its electrifying performance. This band was founded in Kochi, Kerala, in 1996.
Where: Hard Rock Cafe, St Mark's Road
When: September 30; 9 pm onwards

It's a bandh

Farmers' group calls for bandh today; several organisations come together to protest against release of Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu

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Pro-Kannada organisations have called for a state-wide bandh on Friday

Will there be two bandhs this week? It appears so, as there has been no consensus among the protesting organisations regarding the bandh. While a farmers' group led by Kurubur Shanthakumar has called for a Bengaluru bandh today, other pro-Kannada organisations have called a Karnataka bandh on Friday.

A meeting held between various organisations on Monday failed to reach a consensus, and consequently, both organisations have called for separate bandhs to protest against the release of Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu.

Now, the big question arises: will there be transportation services available or not? Federation of Karnataka State Private Transport Associations president Nataraj Sharma said, "Around 32 organisations have extended their support for the bandh. We have told the drivers not to take part in bandhs where schools are having midterm exams. Even the stage carrier buses (private buses) will stop operations. However, those vehicles that arrive in the city before 6:30 am will not be affected."

However, Tanveer Pasha, President of the Ola Uber Drivers' and Owners' Association, said, "We had previously urged our cab drivers to participate in today's bandh. However, having two bandhs is not feasible. Therefore, we have instructed cab drivers to operate as usual today but to stay off the roads on Friday to support the Karnataka bandh."

AITUC general secretary Vijay Bhaskar stated, "AITUC and the KSRTC staff workers' federation have called for a bandh. There are 6,000 buses, and usually buses are vulnerable targets during protests. Workers also need to work without fear. We provide moral support, and considering all the issues, we have requested all employees to support the bandh and refrain from working."

However, KSRTC and BMTC officials have stated that buses will operate as usual.

Bruhat Bengaluru Hotels Association president PC Rao stated, "There is no confusion about the bandh days. Initially, we had decided to suspend operations today. However, we have now instructed our member associations to continue operations today as usual."

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah stated on Monday that his government would not suppress these protests, emphasising the importance of maintaining peace. He also mentioned that the state government would present its case more assertively before the Supreme Court when the matter is next heard. "We had filed a petition in the Supreme Court against the orders of the Cauvery Water Management Authority and Regulation Committee. The court rejected our plea as well as Tamil Nadu's. They initially sought 24,000 cusecs, then 7,200 cusecs, while we stated that we couldn't even provide 5,000 cusecs due to water scarcity," he said. Deputy CM DK Shivakumar stressed that the government will do everything in state's interest.

Holiday for schools and colleges

Schools and colleges are to remain shut today following the bandh. D Shashi Kumar, General Secretary of the Associated Management of English Medium Schools (KAMS), told Bangalore Mirror that on Monday evening, they received a message from the Bengaluru Urban Deputy Commissioner via DDPI notifying them of the school holiday.
"Consequently, we have instructed our member institutions to temporarily close their schools for a day. However, I want to stress that an excess of bandhs could have adverse effects on our students. Our primary concern is the ongoing exams that need to be completed before the Dasara holidays. Excessive holidays may potentially disrupt the academic schedule. I urge the state government to consider schools an essential category and advocate for their continued operation. While we will express our support for the Cauvery issue by wearing black bands, we must ensure that students and their studies are not disrupted."
Moreover, Bangalore University has announced the postponement of BA and BSc (second and fourth semester) exams scheduled today to a later date.

Security measures

B Dayananda, the police commissioner in Bengaluru, stated on Monday that the bandh planned for today in the city would not be allowed and that the organisers had been informed of this. He announced prohibitory measures would be in effect from Tuesday (today) midnight to Wednesday midnight while speaking at a news conference.
"Because of CrPC Section 144, which would be imposed in the city, not more than five people can go together out in public. No bandh is permitted, in accordance with a number of decisions by the Supreme Court and the High Court. We have put in place the necessary security measures," Dayananda declared.
-BMB

Safer births: World Congress on preeclampsia

The ISSHP World Congress 2023-Pragnya is being held in the city from September 24-27, focusing on preeclampsia, a life-threatening pregnancy complication marked by high blood pressure. In India, preeclampsia affects 5% to 8% of pregnant women, with some hospital data indicating an even higher incidence of 5% to 15%. This condition contributes significantly to maternal and infant mortality due to a lack of awareness among expectant mothers and their families, leading to delayed medical intervention.

During the conference, the narratives of two preeclampsia survivors shared their personal journeys. This collaborative effort between the International Society of Obstetric Medicine (ISOM) and the Society for Maternal Fetal Medicine (India) - SMFM (I) aims to provide a comprehensive reference for medical professionals and expectant parents.

The ISSHP World Congress is being held in Bengaluru until September 27

The congress will feature 120 presentations on the diagnosis, treatment, and research of preeclampsia, delivered by experts from across the globe. This marks a historic moment in the fields of obstetrics, gynaecology, and neonatal care.

Dr Annemarie Hennessy, President of ISSHP, stressed the significance of this congress for maternal health worldwide, particularly in a country like India with a challenging population to monitor. Dr. Prakash K Mehta, organising chairperson, underscored the importance of consolidating preeclampsia care in India and educating all stakeholders. Dr Revathi S Rajan, organising secretary, highlighted the need for holistic approaches and patient awareness in tackling this critical issue.
-BMB

Safe junctions, just a sweet dream so far

BBMP's plan to redesign 75 junctions was announced 5 months ago. But work is yet to begin

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BBMP's prestigious Suraksha 75 aimed at renovating city junctions to make them safer is yet to kick off, five months after it was announced with much fanfare. It is learnt that the Palike plans to call tenders for Detailed Project Report (DPR) later this week.

The renovation of the 75 junctions was announced in the Karnataka Budget 2023-2024. The project is being implemented by BBMP and Bengaluru Traffic Police with WRI India as the knowledge partner under the Bloomberg Philanthropies Initiative for Global Road Safety (BIGRS).

BBMP had allocated an escrow grant of Rs 150 crore for the project. But on-ground work is yet to start. The official clarified that no funds have been allocated from the state government for this project.

"We will soon call a tender for preparing the DPR for the project. We will call the tender by this week. After that, the DPR will be prepared. Within four months, we will float a tender for the actual project. As of now, no work has been started but we are estimating the work to be completed within three years," said a senior BBMP official.

The initiative was launched with a lot of fanfare on March 25 with Bengaluru's Road Safety Cell under the BBMP TEC (Traffic Engineering Cell) with WRI India as a knowledge partner. As a pilot, BBMP has already renovated a few junctions like Town Hall Junction, Maurya Junction, and Balekundri Circle on the same model.

The Palike has taken up the revamp of junctions noting that intersections are complex sections in the road network. Seeing that intersections are conflict areas between modes of transport, the Palike aims to create safer streets by integrating civil engineering, traffic engineering, and urban design.

BBMP has proposed 13 junctions in the East Zone, 12 in the South Zone, 11 in the West Zone, 12 in Mahadevapura Zone, eight in Yelahanka Zone, seven in Rajarajeshwari Nagar Zone, eight in Bommanahalli Zone, and four in Dasarahalli Zone.

Chetan Sodaye, Senior Program Associate - Transport, WRI India told BM, "Every junction will be given its own priority. The consultant onboarded should have specific skill sets. There should be an urban designer, traffic engineer and architect in the team. The idea of the project is to look at junctions from pedestrians as well vehicular movement. Before designing the junctions, there will be a lot of studies conducted. We will be shortly sharing an SOP for the designs to help the consultants."

The Palike plans to tap into all three areas of expertise in civil engineering, traffic engineering, and urban design. The model junctions will aim to emulate global standards of road safety by using critical elements such as pedestrian refuge areas, speed calming measures, and safe demarcated crossings. The proposal was also brought out keeping in mind the growing number of vehicles in city.

As of August 30, Bengaluru saw 3,228 accident cases across 50 Traffic Police Stations across the city. Out of this, 543 cases were fatal, killing 560 people, 2,685 were non-fatal, injuring 2,773 people. Up till June 30, 2023, Bengaluru registered 43,29,522 cases of traffic violations in 2023, 1,04,49,571 cases in 2022, and 93,05,857 cases in 2021.

Town Hall Junction is among the few that has already been renovated as part of the pilot (File photo)

> **"Within four months, we will float a tender for the project. As of now, no work has been started but we are estimating the work to be completed within three years** –BBMP official

Few takers for Metro's common mobility cards

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Since Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) started issuing National Common Mobility Cards (NCMC) in March this year, it has managed to sell just a total of 12,812 cards as of September 14. Experts say that until other public transportation systems in the city begin to accept payments through the NCMC, sales are likely to remain low, if not witness a significant drop.

Chief Public Relations Officer of BMRCL Yeshwanth Chavan told Bangalore Mirror that the daily average NCMC sale (of the first week of September) stands at 303 while the total NCMC cards used daily (week average) is 2,899. This is while the metro's average daily ridership has risen in each of the last four months, reaching a record 6.11 lakh in July.

Around 60% of Metro users commute using smart cards

Sanjeev Dyamannavar, a transport expert, said that since the NCMC cards can only be used on the metro currently, the sales are going to remain low until other public transport systems like the Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) begin to accept payments made through them. "At present, metro users are comfortable using their closed loop cards. Since the introduction of QR code tickets, the process of buying tickets has become much easier. There is no need for passengers to buy the NCMC to commute around the city," he said, adding that the sales might also see a drop in comparison to the current rate.

Ticketing pattern

Around 60% of metro users commute using smart cards, 39% rely on tokens that can be bought at ticket counters and the rest buy tickets in groups or through the QR based ticketing system. Recently, the BMRCL took proactive steps to phase out their closed-loop smart cards and promote the adoption of the NCMC – open-loop cards, aligned with the 'One Nation One Card' initiative, enabling interoperability across various transport systems nationwide, wherever the concept is implemented.

Along with this, NCMCs can be used at retail outlets among other places, reducing the burden on commuters to carry multiple cards. While NCMCs are conveniently available for purchase at all metro stations during operational hours, the sale of Contactless Smart Cards (CSC) has been restricted to specific time slots between 8 am to 11 am and 5 pm to 8 pm.

Kalpana, a frequent metro user, said, "I use the Namma Metro card and it is convenient. I would have to register and obtain the NCMC card for it to provide the same function that the metro card is currently providing. The NCMC card also only has a 5% discount. Until the other transport modes in the city begin to accept them, I will continue to use the closed loop metrocard." She added that since the recent announcement by the metro of the cards being provided at ticket counters, many have bought the card to try out its convenience. However, the enthusiasm may soon die out, she said.

Police drop love jihad charge

After conducting an inquiry into a 37-year-old Bengaluru woman's 'love jihad' charge, the police said that there is no such angle to the case. The woman had made the allegation against her former live-in partner when she learned that he was engaged, two years after they split up, police said on Monday.

After the woman used the controversial term in a social media post, the police got in touch with her and filed an FIR, leading to the arrest of the 32-year-old man from the Zakura neighbourhood of Srinagar in Kashmir last week.

He was charged with attempted illegal conversion under the Karnataka Protection of Right to Freedom of Religion Act, but now that charge has been dropped. The man will still be held accountable for rape, forgery, and criminal intimidation, a police official added. **–BMB**

Ragging: Student wants out

A first-year college student took to social media to claim that he was a victim of ragging.

The student has tagged Bengaluru city police and the police commissioner and claimed that it's not been even a week in college and seniors are engaging in ragging. "As I was going to the washroom today, a 3rd year student along with a few friends, snapped their fingers and called a name. I turned back and they started scolding me. One of the seniors snatched my phone and got aggressive," claims the student. The student said when he spoke to college officials, they told him it happens all the time."

The victim has approached the police as he wants to get out of the college and get a refund. **–BMB**

When road conditions take hazardous turn

Citizens face issues commuting on Kensington Road; say it hasn't been restored by BWSSB authorities after replacement of UGD pipes

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Thousands of motorists are finding it tough to use Kensington Road for commuting. Many of them prefer other roads even though it requires them to go circular or commute one or two kilometre due to the bad condition of Kensington Road, which was dug up six months ago.

The stretch between Memorial Drive and Camp Road was dug up by the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) Major Pipelines Division for replacing underground drainage pipes. Though the replacement of UGD pipes is complete, the road is yet to be restored by the BWSSB authorities.

"Most of the residents of Kallahalli have to depend on this road to reach Old Madras Road to proceed either to Halasuru or Indiranagar. We are facing a lot of problems due to the delay in restoring the road. The main road at Kallahalli is also yet to be restored. I want the BWSSB authorities to fix this problem for the benefit of residents, especially motorists," said Kalidasa Reddy, a resident of Kallahalli.

Many motorists prefer other roads than Kensington Road to commute

> **I demand the BWSSB authorities fix this problem, as it will be tough for motorists to commute on this road whenever it rains**
> –NS Ravi, president of Bharathinagar Residents' Forum

Demanding the BWSSB authorities to restore the road without any further delay, Bharathinagar Residents' Forum president NS Ravi said the BWSSB authorities should restore the road immediately to avoid inconvenience to motorists from areas such as Frazer Town, Cox Town, and other areas who want to go towards Old Madras Road.

"I demand the BWSSB authorities fix this problem, as it will be tough for motorists to commute on this road whenever it rains. Road accidents may take place due to the bad condition of the road," said Ravi.

Furthermore, Iftekhar Ahmed, a resident of Frazer Town, told Bangalore Mirror that many parents have to commute on this road to take their children to the nearby schools. "There were occasions where accidents took place due to the bad condition of the road," said Ahmed.

Meanwhile, Purushotham from Halasuru Rising appreciated the BWSSB authorities for laying the UGD pipes. "It was very tough for the BWSSB engineers to replace the old UGD pipes with new ones. They have to take care of existing utility pipes and cables. I hope the road will be restored soon," said Purushotham.

When informed, BWSSB assistant executive engineer (Major Pipelines Division) Santhosh said the restoration of the road would begin as soon as the monsoon is over. "We will take up the asphalting work shortly," he said.

From still waters to a bustling ecosystem

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In recent years, Kaggadasapura Lake has undergone a remarkable transformation, shifting from its worst condition to becoming a thriving ecosystem that welcomes over 52 bird species and more than 20 species of butterflies. The lake, which was in an utter state of neglect, was taken up for restoration two years ago and is almost close to completion. However, the enriched biodiversity at the lake has helped it attract many bird species.

Sujith Nair, an IT professional who has been photographing birds at Kaggadasapura Lake for a long time, revealed that the enriched biodiversity of the lake has given the birds a place to thrive. Over 52 species of birds and 20 types of butterflies were captured. "The ecosystem around the lake has a lot of rare birds, rare insects, and reptiles. I have been carrying out photography at the lake to bring the authorities' attention, as this lake has the potential to attract many birds and insects, and we need to save it."

SUJITH NAIR

Various species of birds and butterflies are spotted at the lake

The journey of Kaggadasapura Lake from a degraded state to a biodiverse haven began with an ambitious restoration effort. According to the residents, sewage from the nearby apartments was let into the lake. Just like how Bellandur and Varthur Lakes had seen huge frothing at the lake years ago, Kaggadaspura Lake was also one of the victims of lake frothing.

However, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) had taken up restoration of the lake, including the pathway, fencing, and desilting of the lake. Residents disclosed that the work has been extremely slow this year. "Initially, we saw the work happening at a fast pace and were hoping for the rejuvenation to be done in a couple of months. But this year, with elections, the workroom is a step back, and since they are carried out very slowly," a resident informed.

Several of these bird species had vanished from the area back in 2019, raising concerns among wildlife enthusiasts. However, the gradual return of these feathered friends is a testament to the improving ecological conditions at the lake.

Some of the bird species that have been found are the painted stork, Indian grey hornbill, the elusive ashy drongo, the vibrant green bee-eater, the majestic brahminy kite, the distinctive lineated barbet, the melodious Asian koel, the elegant egrets, bulbul, shikra, scaly-breasted munia, yellow warbler, grey wagtail, swallow, rosy starling, and many others.

The butterflies that have been captured are the blue tiger butterfly, common castor butterfly, crimson red butterfly, Indian pioneer, neptis nata, peacock pansy, plain tiger butterfly, small salmon Arab, and more.

whatsapp MIRROR 9591233247

Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

Mend it
Jalahalli

Right next to Jalahalli police station (opposite Kanti Sweets), the pavement is a dangerous spot where people often trip and fall. We request immediate action.

Remove wires
Kasturba Road

Near Cubbon Park police station on Kasturba Road, wires are obstructing the view. It's been an issue for the past few months.

It's encroached
RPC Layout

The narrow service road has been encroached upon by a building on Service Road, RPC Layout, causing significant inconvenience to pedestrians, especially senior citizens who need to cross this stretch.

Fixed: BBMP's all new shape and size

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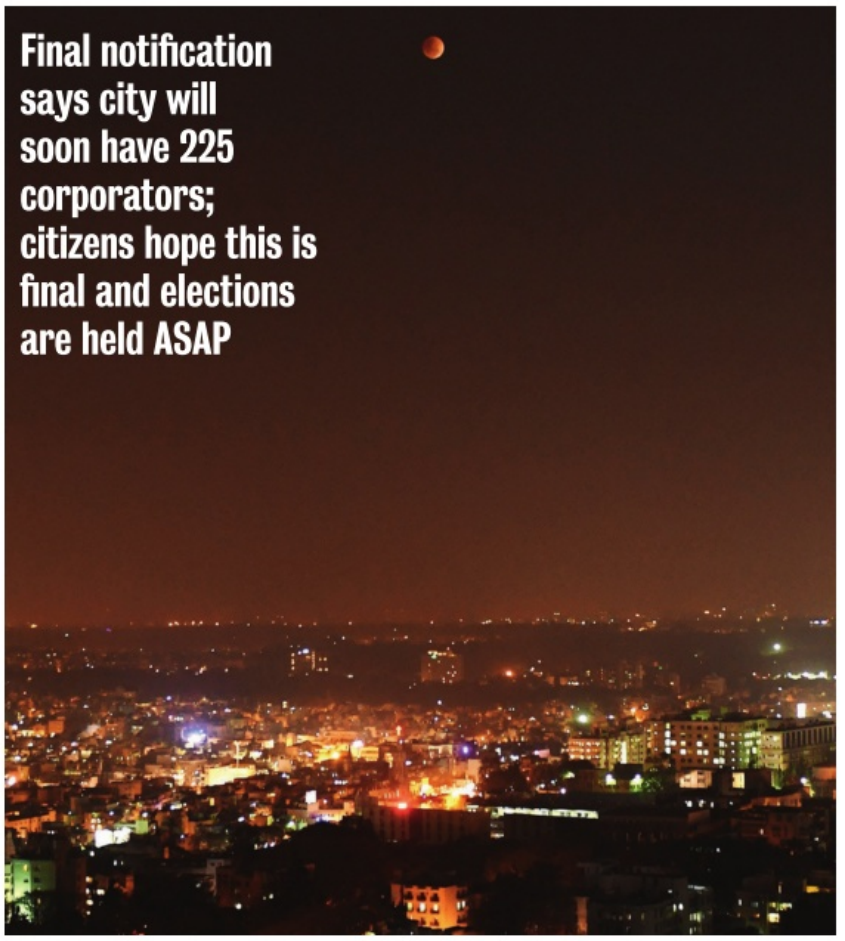
Final notification says city will soon have 225 corporators; citizens hope this is final and elections are held ASAP



It's official - the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) will have 225 wards for which the elections are due. A final notification resizing the BBMP has been notified on Monday.

As per the notification, "The Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike Act, 2020, the ward-wise delimitation of the Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike is finalised and notified as follows; the number of wards of BBMP will stand at 225."

As the elections are due, now it is for the State Government to decide when the elections would be held for the civic agency which saw the last list of corporators. This means the BBMP's ward size that had briefly extended (only on paper) from 198 to 243 has now dropped to 225.

The notification stated that wards delimitation commission under the chairmanship of the BBMP Chief Commissioner was re-constituted by the Government on June 23, 2023, by invoking the powers conferred under Section 7 of the BBMP Act, 2020 as per the orders of the Division Bench of the High Court order (June 19, 2023).

"In exercise of the powers conferred in clause (a) of sub-section (3) of Section 7 of the BBMP Act, 2020, the number of councilors of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike has been fixed as 225 by withdrawing the notification dated January 29, 2021, in which the number of councilors was fixed as 243. The Wards Delimitation Commission submitted the Wards Delimitation Report to the Government on August 14, 2023. Ascrutinising committee was constituted under the chairmanship of the Additional Chief Secretary, Urban Development Department, to review the objections/suggestions. Accordingly, the said scrutinizing committee scrutinized the objections/suggestions received in the Government in detail in the meeting held on September 14, 2023, and has made recommendations suggesting some changes to the draft notification of delimitation of wards," the notification read.

The Congress government had dropped names for wards like Chatrapati Shivaji, Chanakya, Kanneshwara Ram, Veera Madakari, Ranadheera Kanteerava, Veerasindhura Lakshmana, Vijayanagara Krishnadevaraya, Sir M Visvesvaraya, and Nalwadi Krisharaja Wadiyar, proposed during the BJP government's tenure. The updated list retains only a few names, including Kempegowda (ward number 1), Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar (ward no 50) and Dr. Rajkumar (135).

> **The State Government had expressed intention to hold elections by the end of this year, but, we don't know if it will be done**
> —Sandesh D, civic activist

Allegations

There have been allegations that ward delimitation reveals a decrease in the number of wards in constituencies represented by BJP legislators. While the original ward count was designed around a population of 35,000 per ward, the revised list indicates an approximate population of 37,527 per ward. The reduction of 18 wards from the initial 243 predominantly affects constituencies under saffron legislators' representation.

"In recent years, we have seen several notifications altering the size of the BBMP, and now, we hope the latest notification remains unchanged. The pressing need is to reinstate elected representatives promptly, necessitating swift action from the state government in scheduling the elections. The government must expedite announcement of ward reservations. The absence of elected representatives has hindered administrative processes, making it challenging for citizens to communicate their concerns," said Sandesh D, a civic activist.

Case of a stolen cycle: Police deny man's bribe demand claim

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A man has alleged that a constable at Madiwala police station demanded Rs 25,000 bribe from a watchman. However, police have denied the allegations, and the ACP assured BM that he would look into the matter.

The person living in Frazer Town has alleged that the watchman at his building was taken away by the police as he had bought a stolen cycle. "He had bought a cycle from an ad on Facebook two months ago. After using it for a while, he sold it to another person. I saw him reselling the cycle, and I was witness to the sale of the cycle. The watchman didn't know that the cycle was stolen," he said.

Later, on the afternoon of September 25, the police called the building's supervisor and enquired about the watchman. "I have no idea how they got the number but they came to the building and took the watchman with them," he said. After he was informed that police had taken away the watchman so he rushed to the nearest Pulikeshinagar police station.

"I was informed there that they have not arrested anyone. Later, after talking to the building supervisor I got to know the number from which he received the call and found out that it was Madiwala police station. The original owner of the cycle had apparently filed a complaint in the Madiwala police station," he said.

He claims that the police have the watchman in the lockup since the afternoon and they have demanded Rs 5,000 for the cycle and Rs 20,000 as a bribe.

"I spoke to one lawyer. He said the cops can't detain him and he just has to give a declaration that it was a bona-fide sale from his end," he said.

BM approached the ACP of Madiwala division about the incident and we were assured that he would look into the matter. Officials of the police station also told BM they have not kept the watchman in the lockup. "We let him go after recording his statement. Also, we didn't ask for any bribe. And no money was asked from our side," an official said.

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Waste to energy, in about 2 months

Work on plant being constructed near Bidadi is almost over: BBMP

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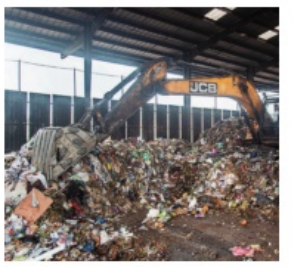

Finally, some good news on the waste management front. If things go as per plan, around 600 tonnes of solid waste will be converted into energy in about two months thus providing the much-needed relief to the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP).

"The waste to energy plant being constructed near Bidadi is expected to become operational in two months. Most of the civil works are completed," said BBMP Joint Commissioner (Solid Waste Management) Prathibha.

The plant will have the capacity to take 600 tonne of solid waste to make 11.5 MW refuse-derived fuels. The plant is being set up by Karnataka Power Corporation Limited (KPCL) and the BBMP on the basis of engineering procurement and construction (EPC) at an estimated cost of Rs 260 crore. BS Yediyurappa, the chief minister of that time, had laid the foundation stone for the plant in December 2020. It is said the plant will help the BBMP to dispose of 25% waste scientifically.

The annual report of Urban Development Department for 2022-23 claimed the state government has already paid Rs 50 crore to the KPCL under Shubra Bangalore Scheme. It has also claimed to have completed 90% of the civil works.

Environmentalists have welcomed the government's initiative and demanded that the authorities set up a continuous air monitoring system in place.

> **BBMP must not send recyclable dry waste to the waste to energy plant**
> —Nalini S, Hasiru Dala

"I appreciate the state government for setting up the waste to energy plant. The BBMP must facilitate transporting of non-recyclable items to the waste to energy plant. They should not send recyclable dry waste to the plant," said Hasiru Dala co-founder Nalini Shekar.

Emphasising on the need to have an air quality monitoring system at the spot, Friends of Lakes co-founder and convener V Ramprasad said strict implementation of the standards prescribed by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) regarding air quality should be adhered to. "Only rejects that amount to around 10 and 15% of solid waste that are not recyclable and bio medical waste such as diapers and sanitary napkins should be incinerated. The plant should be in the red zone industrial area. Air quality monitoring system needs to be implemented," said Ramprasad.

Up for cloud seeding again?

State govt report says cloud seeding can be effective but Centre says not so much

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Despite this year's rainfall failing to replenish reservoirs, the Karnataka Government is now considering cloud seeding as an option. On Monday, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar said, "Dark clouds have surrounded Bengaluru, and we hope for rain to alleviate the situation. We will soon discuss cloud seeding in the state cabinet and make a final decision." An official added, "Normal rainfall has become rare, and drought has become the new norm in our state. While cloud seeding cannot serve as a permanent solution for water scarcity, it provides short-term technological solutions to address contingency situations."

The last cloud seeding project in Karnataka took place from July 25, 2019, to October 6, 2019. It involved operating three C-band Doppler radars and deploying two aircraft for aerial cloud seeding operations. Hygroscopic and glaciogenic flares were used to spray seeding materials into the clouds. According to the official report of the 2019 cloud seeding project (available with Bangalore Mirror), "A midterm evaluation was submitted to the Government on September 3, October 1, and November 2, 2019. Around 83 flights were utilised for the purpose, with 1,340 flares employed for seeding (hygroscopic 522, glaciogenic Burn-in-Place 522, glaciogenic Ejectable 455). Seeding was conducted in 28 out of 30 districts in the state (excluding Udupi and Bidar). A rainfall data analysis indicated that in all cases, rainfall occurred after seeding and persisted for an average of four hours following seeding. This clearly indicates the success of seeding in triggering and accelerating rainfall. The mean enhancement in rainfall was 2.95 mm, with additional water estimated at 7.4 TMC. This figure is three times higher than the 2.1 TMC estimated in the 2017 cloud seeding program, likely due to the higher number of seeding cases (51%) conducted in September 2019. Favourable synoptic systems in September facilitated the formation of deep clouds, leading to higher rainfall increases for the same percentage rise. In contrast, the 2017 season extended the seeding program until November 2017, when atmospheric conditions were less conducive to cloud formation."

> **"The IITM is working to understand rain enhancement in clouds through a research program**
> –Govt response

However, doubts persist regarding the project's effectiveness. In a previous response in the Lok Sabha, the Centre asserted that artificial rainmaking techniques involving cloud seeding cannot provide sufficient rainfall in areas with rainfall deficits or drought conditions. The response noted, "Such efforts can only induce potential preexisting clouds already passing over a given area to produce rain, but only if organised weather modification interventions are successful. The IITM is working to understand rain enhancement in clouds through a research program like the Cloud Aerosol Interaction and Precipitation Enhancement Experiment. Current scientific knowledge suggests that artificial rainmaking techniques involving cloud seeding cannot serve as an alternative for bringing rain to areas with rainfall deficits or drought conditions. These techniques can enhance rainfall in preexisting clouds to produce higher quantity of rain."

What is cloud seeding?

Clouds can be thought of as engines that convert atmospheric water vapour into precipitation, although they operate with low efficiency. Cloud seeding is a method to enhance the efficiency of clouds in converting atmospheric or cloud vapour into precipitation. Sometimes, the natural rainfall process in clouds is hindered by various atmospheric conditions. In such cases, cloud seeding accelerates the rainfall process by introducing specific particles in the clouds, which are viewed as "seeds" for rainfall acceleration.

"Studies have shown that a large number of convective clouds suitable for seeding exist, even during monsoon breaks. The mean duration of clouds ranges from 38 to 60 minutes, allowing sufficient time for aircraft to reach the clouds for seeding operations. Cloud seeding is not a new phenomenon; it was first attempted on November 13, 1946, when 0.5 kg of dry ice was dropped from an aircraft onto a supercooled cloud in the USA. It was observed that the supercooled cloud transformed into ice within five minutes, marking the beginning of cloud seeding science.

Suspended ADGP Amrit Paul granted bail

The High Court of Karnataka on Monday granted conditional bail to Amrit Paul, the suspended Additional Director General of Police (Recruitment), in connection with the police sub-inspector (PSI) recruitment scam. Paul had been in custody since his arrest on July 4, 2022.

Paul's petition for bail was allowed by Justice Mohammad Nawaz under specific conditions. The conditions include his cooperation with the ongoing investigation, refraining from tampering with evidence, avoiding any attempts to influence the investigating officer, and remaining restricted from international travel. The bail bond is for Rs five lakh with two sureties.

Paul's advocate M S Shyamsundar, argued in favour of the bail petition and contended that the prosecution had been filing the charge sheet to the trial court in stages, a practice that goes against the provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code. Given that Paul had spent over a year in custody without the trial court taking cognisance of the alleged offences against him. Shyamsundar asserted that his client was entitled to bail.

Government advocate Prasanna Kumar opposed the bail plea on the grounds that Paul was directly involved in tampering with the answer sheets of the PSI recruits. He had also allegedly provided fake medical documents to be absent from work on the days the tampering took place. He was on medical leave on October 7, 8 and 16.

However, an investigation found that he had not taken any treatment at a private hospital in Yelahanka New Town as claimed by him. He had left the keys of the strong room in his private room on those days. This was used by others to tamper with the answer sheets, Kumar said.

— BMB

Elephant corridors under threat in Karnataka

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The Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change (MOEF&CC), in association with the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), has identified nine elephant corridors in Karnataka. Out of the identified corridors, one stands impaired and requires immediate restoration to facilitate the movement of these majestic creatures, while ground data reveals the increased intensity of use in three other corridors.

The Ministry has also recommended that seven out of the nine corridors should be notified by the state forest department so that they are legally protected under an appropriate law to prevent encroachment and development activities, which can be detrimental to animal movement. For the remaining two corridors, the Ministry has suggested eviction of encroached areas and habitat improvements, including removing invasive alien species, creating waterholes, and establishing fodder plots.

These nine corridors include Kaniyanpura-Moyar (in Karnataka), Beguru-Brammangiri (interstate Karnataka and Kerala), Edayahalli-Doddasampige (in Karnataka), Edayahallil-Guttiyalattur (interstate Tamil Nadu-Karnataka), Chamarajanagar-Talamalai at Punjur (interstate Karnataka and Tamil Nadu), Chamarajanagar-Talamalai at Muddahalli (interstate Tamil Nadu and Karnataka), Karadikkal-Madeshwara (in Karnataka), Tali-Bilikkan (interstate Tamil Nadu and Karnataka), Bilikkal-Javalagiri (interstate Tamil Nadu and Karnataka).

According to wildlife conservationists, many important elephant corridors in the state are under serious threat due to illegal encroachment and violations of eco-sensitive zone rules. One such corridor is Kaniyanpura-Moyar, part of the Bandipur Tiger Reserve buffer zone and also an Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ).

"Many loopholes of ESZ rule have been explored in this corridor area. There are seven to eight villages in this corridor and many farmlands earlier owned by the villagers; many farmlands that were previously owned by villagers have been purchased by affluent individuals, leading to the construction of permanent structures. Due to human-animal conflict issues, farmers from these villages were ready to sell their lands to the Karnataka Forest Department. However, many of these patches now belong to the rich and influential. Projects are being taken up without due approval from the state monitoring committee and no action is being taken by officials concerned," said a conservationist.

> **"Many farmlands that were previously owned by villagers have been puchased by affluent individuals**
> –Conservationist

Fertilisers are making us lose the climate plot

Study by group of researchers from GKVK and German university shows rise in fertiliser usage is leading to higher emissions of carbon dioxide

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According to researchers from Gandhi Krishi Vigyana Kendra (GKVK), Bengaluru, and the University of Kassel in Germany, increasing use of nitrogen-based fertiliser for food production is threatening our climate goals. A study conducted by a group of researchers from the two universities highlights that an increase in fertilizer usage is leading to higher emissions of carbon dioxide (CO_2).

Higher CO_2 emission was recorded in Bengaluru's rural areas with altered cropping patterns, depleted groundwater, and a shift of cropping pattern from rainfed agriculture to irrigated system.

"Nitrogen application significantly affected CO_2 emissions in all wet season crops as well as dry season crops in the irrigated fields.

"The average CO_2 emission in agricultural plots that were rainfed and had high nitrogen content was 56.4% higher than in plots with lower nitrogen levels

Plots with high nitrogen levels had significantly higher CO_2 emissions than the plots with low nitrogen across all crops and seasons. Although higher emission of CO_2 was noticed in all field switch high nitrogen levels, these effects were highest in agricultural plots in Bengaluru's rural-urban transition with altered cropping patterns, depleted groundwater sources, and the plots that had shifted from rainfed agriculture to irrigated systems," noted the study.

At low levels of carbon in soil, higher nitrogen levels increase microbial activities, which in turn leads to the breakdown of organic matter in the soil into mineral nutrients which are easily absorbed by plants. This process leads to higher emissions of CO_2.

"Another mechanism by which higher nitrogen fertilization increases CO_2 emissions is the sequestration of higher carbon inputs from increased crop growth.

The study, irrespective of irrigation, noted that CO_2 emissions in all crops increased significantly with the application of nitrogen-based fertiliser. However, the average CO_2 emission in agricultural plots that were rainfed and had high nitrogen content was 56.4% higher than in plots with lower nitrogen levels.

In the irrigated plots however, the same set of wet-season crops grown on plots with high nitrogen levels had only 12.1% higher CO_2 emissions than those in plots with low nitrogen levels," observed the study, which was published in Nutrient Cycling in Agroecosystem journal.

Namma BMTC app is here

BMTC's silver jubilee was celebrated with the launch of the Namma BMTC app. Apart from the bus details, the app has various features such as finding nearby bus stops (Geo-location and Text Search), Estimated Time of Arrival (ETA) of the bus at the Bus Stop, Estimated Time of Arrival (ETA) to destination, route planner and timetable, women's safety SOS button, sharing location with contacts, favourites (Passenger's favourite/frequent route and bus stops e.g. Home, Workplace, etc. on Route Planner), around the bus stop- ATM, restaurant, hospital, police station, parking, etc. The app is now available on the Android platforms and iOS platforms and was developed by MCT Cards and Technologies Pvt. Ltd.

Under the Nirbhaya Scheme, BMTC launched its app with a women safety feature, an in-bus surveillance system in city buses and a passenger information system (PIS) at Bus stops/stations. The app allows women commuters to seek remote assistance in case of emergency, track movements of women passengers when support is sought by them, on-board cameras to monitor on-bus activities, panic buttons within busses for women passengers to seek remote assistance in situations of emergency and creating a centralised helpline for assisting in distress.

BMTC has received Nirbhaya funds for 5,000 buses only. This will be only 75% of the total fleet strength. In this regard, of the total 6500+ buses, 5000 buses will only be tracked in real-time. However, action will be taken to track the remaining buses in the near future.

For 5,000 buses, BMTC installed AIS 140 compliant vehicle tracking devices to know the location of the buses, 5000 panic buttons, 10000 CCTV cameras and 5000 mNVR as a surveillance system has been installed & 500 PIS (Passenger Information System) boards for displaying ETA/ETD at bus stand/stations.

Collision with parked garbage truck: Death sparks concern

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The death of a man, whose bike collided into a parked BBMP garbage lorry, has created much concern among citizens. The man crashed into the lorry around 12 am on the Jayanagar Metro station road. He was married and is survived by his wife and an eight-month-old. The victim has been identified as Yashwant, 26.

Citizens are worried after allegations that the lorry driver has parked the lorry below the metro station in an haphazard manner.

The man was heading towards South End Circle from Banashankari at 12 am. According to the police, the biker was going fast near the Jayanagar metro station and lost control over the vehicle, causing him to ram into the rear of the lorry.

After receiving the information of the accident, the Jayanagar traffic police rushed to the spot.

The deceased was a resident of Yelachenahalli. After continuous efforts, the police recovered the dead body at 3 am. The mother and brother of the deceased rushed to the spot while the body was being taken out, the parents were shocked to see Yashwant's condition.

The dead body was shifted to Victoria Hospital by an ambulance.

Yashwant, who was employed in a private company, had joined a new company only six months ago. His friends suspect that the victim was being chased by someone.

This isn't the first time that a BBMP garbage lorry is involved in an accident. Ajay of Swayam Jagruti told BM that this is mainly because the lorries are always parked on the road.

"From what I have observed, the lorries are always parked on the road. They don't have any reflectors as well. So, if someone is travelling late at night, they might not be able to see the vehicle and crash into it. Another thing is that the number plate of these vehicles are also hidden, so if they are involved in any sort of hit and run case, it would be difficult to catch," said Ajay.

'Free travel scheme aided temple income'

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said on Monday that the Shakti free travel scheme for women in Karnataka has increased the income of temples.

He was speaking at the inauguration of 'Our Monument: Our Heritage, Our Identity, Our Pride' campaign interaction and digital platform organised by Tourism and Archaeology Museums and Heritage Department at Conference Hall, Vidhana Soudha.

"There are substantial opportunities to develop tourism in the state. The concern behind the Shakti project is that even the poor should be allowed to go to spiritual and eco-tourism centers and temples. 60 lakh women have benefited from this and the income of temples has increased.

"The economy is gaining momentum and business and transactions are creating more jobs. All these concerns have worked behind the Shakti scheme," he said, adding that the scheme was not initiated only because of the election. He said that if tourism grows in the state, the cultural pride of the country will increase and the economy will get a boost. **IANS**

Notice to BU on malpractice alleged in PhD entrance exam

The High Court of Karnataka has issued notice to Bangalore University on a petition seeking to cancel the examination conducted for admission to its PhD programme and to stay the counseling process.

Alleging that there were many irregularities in the PhD entrance examination, 17 candidates had approached the high court.

Justice Ashok K heard the petition and issued the notices on Monday.

The bench has issued notice to 31 respondents, including the Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, Registrars of Administration and Evaluation Department of the Bangalore University, instructing them to file objections.

The court also clarified that the PhD admission and counselling process will be subject to the final order passed by the court on the petition.

Bangalore University conducted the exam for PhD admission in June 2023. It is alleged in the petition that in some colleges in the city, students were allowed to write the exam without authorities checking their identities.

It is also stated in the petition that some students were allowed to search for answers on their mobile phones.

The petition has demanded the cancellation of the June exams and sought a comprehensive investigation into the allegations. **PTI**

Canada updates travel advisory; asks its citizens in India to 'stay vigilant and exercise caution'

Canada has updated travel advisory for its citizens in India asking them to "stay vigilant and exercise caution" in the context of recent developments as there are calls for protests and some "negative sentiment" towards Canada on social media.

Tensions flared between India and Canada following Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's explosive allegations of a "potential" involvement of Indian agents in the killing of Khalistani extremist Hardeep Singh Nijjar, 45, on his country's soil on June 18 in British Columbia. India had designated Nijjar as a terrorist in 2020.

India angrily rejected the allegations as "absurd" and "motivated" and expelled a senior Canadian diplomat in a tit-for-tat move to Ottawa's expulsion of an Indian official over the case.

"In the context of recent developments in Canada and in India, there are calls for protests and some negative sentiment towards Canada on social media. Please remain vigilant and exercise caution," the Canadian government said in an update on Sunday.

This comes after New Delhi issued a similar advisory for Indian nationals and students living in Canada and halted visa services late last week, Global News reported.

'Resolve issue through dialogue' '

The Indian Community in Canada is concerned over the recent strain in relations between the two countries following Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau' allegations regarding the Indian government's involvement in the fatal shooting of Khalistan Tiger Force chief Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Canada.

Senior Canadian Journalist Harleem Sadia said that the Indian community has concerns which are very genuine.

She said common people are now finding it difficult to travel to India and Canada. It is difficult for people who lead normal lives, have regular jobs.

Canadian citizen of Indian origin Gurjant Singh said that being a Sikh, both India and Canada are extremely important to him and the recent tensions deeply concern him.

Gurjant Singh feels the issue should be resolved through dialogue.

"I am very concerned about the matter and I think everything should be resolved through dialogue. Anything, any issue can be discussed, solved at the table. Both the Indian and Canadian governments should put up their point of views while remaining within their lines, boundaries." he said. **Agencies**

Saving Dakshina Pinakini: Effluents, sewage in city's lakes reaching river

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Hennagara lake that was spread across 450 acres 10 years ago had beautiful crystal clear water. But now the lake is in a very bad state with the lake covered with hyacinth, chemical oil and dead fish. Major industrial areas polluting the lakes are Veerasandra, Electronic City, Bommasandra, Jigani Link Road and Jigani Industrial area. Highest pollutant contributors are pharmaceutical and chemical industries and dye and garment industries. While most of the industries talk about zero discharge liquid units, it is not being carried out efficiently and the lakes are slipping into a bad state. The other problem is that a lot of sewage has also been entering the lakes to a large extent."

In order to address the issue of the waste materials and sewage entering into the lake stream, Malligavad made a grey water canal of 48 km connecting these lake streams. "From January to now, we were able to remove all sewage and silt and have managed to pull these lakes out of deterioration. Over 85% of the lakes were turned into beautiful lakes and the remaining 15% we created a grey water canal in which we are trying to trap sewage, thermocol, plastic and sludge by adding aquatic plants. We have created a bund where the retention of water increases and we are able to catch all the sludge and faecal matter from entering the lake."

"Until Margondanahalli, we are able to treat the water effectively, but after that, due to the chemical effluents entering the system, it is getting difficult to treat it

Story so far

So far the Shikaripalya, Margondanahalli, Tirupalya, Hebbagodi, Kommasandra, Bommasandra, Hellarige, Konnasandra, Dyavasandra Lakes have been restored by Malligavad. He is also working on the rejuvenation of Hennegare, Muthanallur and Bidaraguppe lakes that are said to be bigger in size. "The idea is to restore all these connected lakes in South and Anekal so that the water going to the Dakshina Pinakini River stays clean. The water from the river is used by farmers for farming and cultivated crops come back to the city for consumption, but due to the bad state of these lakes, the food consumed or water used for drinking will only lead to health issues," Malligavad added.

Malligavad also disclosed that as the lakes are joined with the Chandapura Lake, the situation at Chandapura lake is dire with some portion of the waterbody having turned black. The problem, he said, is that though sewage entering into the lake is getting addressed through the grey water canal, the effluents still seem to be a challenge. "Until Margondanahalli, we are able to treat the water effectively, but after that, due to the chemical effluents entering the system, it is getting difficult to treat it. We tried adding water purifying plants and floating wetlands to trap the effluents, but it has not helped," added Malligavad.

Malligavad's continuous efforts by using 95-plus excavators, 50-plus trucks and 300-plus people working tirelessly towards restoring this stream has paid off. The projects were sponsored through CSR funds.

Talking about the measures the government should take to trap the effluents from reaching into the lake, he said, "The government has to stop releasing effluent to the drains (nalas). It has to be treated, otherwise nothing can be done and the lakes cannot be saved. The idea is to save the Pinakini River and strict enforcement and action is the need of the hour."

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Change of Name

I, Pratap Singh Shankar Singh, R/at No. 6, 1st Main, 2nd Stage, Gowtham Puram, Ulsoor, Bangalore 560008 declare that my correct name is Pratap Singh Shankar Singh, whereas in my Aadhaar Card mentioned as P Shankar Singh and in Passport as Shankar Singh. I, further declare that both are one and the same person i.e. me only, vide affidavit Date. 25.09.2023 sworn before Notary A R Muneer Ahmed, Bangalore.

I, Husna Bano W/o Syed Humayun R/o #38 Sultanji Gunta Rd opp.New Bambio Bazaar ,Shivaji nagar B'lore-560051 have changed my name to Husna Banu.

I, BRINDA, W/o ALAGAPPAN R, Resident at Flat 207, Ideal Apartments,16th Cross Rajarajeshwari Nagar Bengaluru - 560098, have changed my name as BRINDA ALAGAPPAN, vide affidavit dated 25.09.2023, sworn before notary Subashini, Bengaluru.

I Mangilal Prakash Chand Mandoth S/O, Mangilal Mandoth R/o 37/3, 11th Cross Wilson Garden Bangalore 560027 have changed my name to Prakash Chand .

I YOUSUF S/O MUNEER AHMED Resident of No:490 20th Cross 6th Main 1st Block Devegowda Road Bangalore-560032 Have Changed My Name to ABDUL YOUSUF for all Purpose I sworn Before DEEPA.M Notary Bangalore On 23-09-2023

I Mukesh Kumar Chowdhury S/O, Ram Bichar Chaudhry R/o B206 Casagrand Royce , Hoodi Main Road , Kr Puram , Bengaluru, Pin 560036 have changed my name to Mukesh Kumar Chaudhry.

I Nandish S/O, Narayan G R/o No 628, 1st A Cross, Old Baiyappanahalli, Ambedkar Nagar, Maruthi Sevanagar Post, Bangalore 560033 have changed my name to Nandish Narayan.

I, Shobha Raju D/o Raju B S R/o No.132, ITI layout, Gurusarvobhomma Nagar, Near Brundhavana Apts, Nayandahalli, Bengaluru 560039 have changed my name to SHOBITHA RAJU affidavit Dt.25/09/2023 notary Harisha G, B'luru

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Sapling spotting in Bengaluru

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

saplings were planted or whether they survived. However, the new forest minister is taking steps to hold the forest department accountable for every sapling."

Minister Khandre added that afforestation doesn't mean just planting saplings. "It's essential to nurture these plants and ensure they grow into trees. Hence, we have decided to geotag these plants for better monitoring. I have instructed officials to periodically inspect the plants and ensure their health."

Despite the expectation that 33% of the state should be forested, the forested land in Karnataka has dwindled to just 20.19%. To boost the green cover, the forest department claims to have planted 5 crore saplings in the state, with plans to plant 25 crore saplings across Karnataka in the next five years.

Planting trouble

Typically, saplings are planted at the start of the rainy season, but this year presented challenges due to poor rainfall. Nevertheless, the forest department asserts that it has planted 4.7 crore saplings this year, achieving 90% of the target. Of these, 8.29 lakh saplings were planted in Bengaluru, and 11.2 lakh in Bengaluru rural.

An official added, "Interestingly, 87% of the saplings planted in Bengaluru were acquired by individuals, NGOs, or companies from the forest department and planted by themselves."

In response to this, Minister Khandre stated, "Whether it is residents, resident welfare associations, or corporates who have acquired these saplings for planting on their lands, they are welcome. We need to conduct an audit to verify where these plants have been planted."

In the midst of this sapling planting initiative, several Bengalureans have raised concerns about the proper care and survival of these plants. Many residents believe that these plants are not being adequately nurtured, which could jeopardise their growth into healthy trees.

Nanda D, a citizen, said, "One common observation is that these saplings are often planted on roadsides without adequate protection. This exposes them to various risks, including damage from vehicles and pedestrians. Stray cows, a common sight on Bengaluru's roads, are also known to graze on these unprotected plants, further hindering their growth prospects. Another significant challenge faced by these saplings is the scarcity of water due to poor rainfall in recent times. With less rainfall to rely on, these plants may not receive the regular watering they require to thrive."

Rukumini Devi, a homemaker, said the proximity of these plants to busy roads means they are frequently covered in dust and pollutants. "This accumulation of dust can obstruct the plant's ability to photosynthesise and thrive, potentially hindering their growth," she said.

It may be noted that recently Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar had proposed a solution of assigning the responsibility of adopting and caring for these plants to schools or individual students. This approach could encourage a sense of ownership and responsibility, fostering a passion for nurturing these saplings into flourishing trees, he said. This initiative is yet to kickstart.

HEALTH TIP: Peppermint, eucalyptus and fenugreek can subdue an itchy throat and deal with upper respiratory tract infections

Eat green apples with the peel as it keeps the liver and digestive system healthy

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TRUE BLUE

Can blue-light glasses reduce eye strain or help me sleep?

Blue-light glasses are said to reduce eye strain when using computers, improve your sleep and protect your eye health. You can buy them yourself or your optometrist can prescribe them.

But do they work? Or could they do you harm?

We reviewed the evidence. Here's what we found.

Blue-light glasses, blue light-filtering lenses or blue-blocking lenses are different terms used to describe lenses that reduce the amount of short-wavelength visible (blue) light reaching the eyes.

Most of these lenses prescribed by an optometrist decrease blue light transmission by 10-25 per cent. Standard (clear) lenses do not filter blue light.

A wide variety of lens products are available. A filter can be added to prescription or non-prescription lenses. They are widely marketed and are becoming increasingly popular.

There's often an added cost, which depends on the specific product. So, is the extra expense worth it?

Outdoors, sunlight is the main source of blue light. Indoors, light sources – such as light-emitting diodes (LEDs) and the screens of digital devices – emit varying degrees of blue light.

The amount of blue light emitted from artificial light sources is much lower than from the Sun. Nevertheless, artificial light sources are all around us, at home and at work, and we can spend a lot of our time inside.

Our research team at the University of Melbourne, along with collaborators from Monash University and City, University London, sought to see if the best available evidence supports using blue light-filtering glasses, or if they could do you any harm. So we conducted a systematic review to bring together and evaluate all the relevant studies.

We included all randomised controlled trials (clinical studies designed to test the effects of interventions) that evaluated blue light-filtering lenses in adults. We identified 17 eligible trials from six countries, involving a total of 619 adults.

We found no benefit of using blue light-filtering lenses, over standard (clear) lenses, to reduce eye strain with computer use.

This conclusion was based on consistent findings from three studies that evaluated effects on eye strain over time periods ranging from two hours to five days.

Possible effects on sleep were uncertain. Six studies evaluated whether wearing blue-light filtering lenses before bedtime could improve sleep quality, and the findings were mixed.

These studies involved people with a diverse range of medical conditions, including insomnia and bipolar disorder. Healthy adults were not included in the studies. So we do not yet know whether these lenses affect sleep quality in the general population.

We did not find any clinical evidence to support using blue-light filtering lenses to protect the macula (the region of the retina that controls high-detailed, central vision).

None of the studies evaluated this.

We could not draw clear conclusions on whether there might be harms from wearing blue light-filtering lenses, compared with standard (non blue-light filtering) lenses.

Some studies described how study participants had headaches, lowered mood and discomfort from wearing the glasses. However, people using glasses with standard lenses reported similar effects.

There are some important general considerations when interpreting our findings.

First, most of the studies were for a relatively short period of time, which limited our ability to consider longer-term effects on vision, sleep quality and eye health.

Second, the review evaluated effects in adults. We don't yet know if the effects are different for children.

Finally, we could not draw conclusions about the possible effects of blue light-filtering lenses on many vision and eye health measures, including colour vision, as the studies did not evaluate these.

Overall, based on relatively limited published clinical data, our review does not support using blue-light filtering lenses to reduce eye strain with digital device use. It is unclear whether these lenses affect vision quality or sleep, and no conclusions can be drawn about any potential effects on the health of the retina.

High-quality research is needed to answer these questions, as well as whether the effectiveness and safety of these lenses varies in people of different ages and health status.

If you have eye strain, or other eye or vision concerns, discuss this with your optometrist. They can perform a thorough examination of your eye health and vision, and discuss any relevant treatment options.

(By Laura Downie, The University of Melbourne, The Conversation)

MIRRORLIGHTS

Your omega 3 fish oil pills may be rancid, unhealthy: Study

Are you one of those who daily pop omega-3 fatty acid supplements like fish oil for its health benefits? Beware, they may be rancid pills, and not healthy as claimed, suggests a new study.

Derived from plants (algae) as well as seafood (fish, krill, etc.) , omega-3 supplements -- sometimes labelled as fish oil -- are often taken because of research that suggests they may provide health benefits.

Rancidity is measured by the amount of oxidation of the oil in the supplement.

As supplements become more oxidised, the nutritional benefits delivered to the consumer are reduced.

"Our study suggests many of these supplements are not fresh -- and thus may not provide a potential health benefit," said Leigh A. Frame, Associate Professor of clinical research and leadership at George Washington University in the US.

Higher levels of omega-3 have been associated with a wide range of benefits to multiple organs, including the brain and eyes, but the most common reason for its popularity with consumers is to help the cardiovascular system.

The researchers conducted six years of tests on 72 of the most popular brands of omega-3 supplements, using the recommended rancidity limits that are voluntarily set by GOED, a global trade group that represents omega-3 manufacturers.

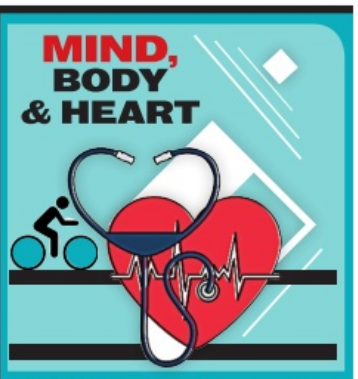
The results, published in the Journal of Dietary Supplements, found a total of 45 per cent of flavoured and unflavoured supplements tested positive for rancidity, with 32 per cent of flavoured supplements testing positive and 13 per cent of unflavored pills.

However, added flavouring can mask the rancidity of supplements. While the oxidation is present in the flavoured supplements, indicating there is a positive level of rancidity, Frame

said the amount of oxidation isn't known because of the flavouring compounds themselves.

"Flavouring is potentially masking the freshness of omega-3 supplements in two ways," said lead author Jacob Hands, medical student at the varsity's School of Medicine and Health Sciences.

—IANS



All you need to know about...

Cough sound and covid

Danger of covid
While most persons infected with covid-19 experience minor symptoms and recover in a matter of weeks, the global pandemic caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus remains a significant health danger. Some of those infected may develop more severe illness and pneumonia.

Diagnostic tools
Although techniques for assessing patients' risk have been created, diagnostic and prognostic tools rely mostly on expensive and less accessible imaging technologies such as radiography, ultrasonography, or computed tomography (CT).

Simplified methods
As a result, there is a need for the development of a simpler and more easily accessible prognostic tool that allows healthcare providers to identify individuals who have developed or are at risk of getting severe disease. This would simplify patient triage and allow for earlier intervention, even at home or in primary care settings.

Cough sound method
In the early stages of covid-19, a research team directed by IBEC and Hospital del Mar, with support from the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (UPC), CIBER-BBN, and CIBERES, conducted a study based on the analysis and interpretation of cough sounds.
This method is given as a potentially predictive, straightforward, and user-friendly tool for assessing the risk of severe pneumonia.

REM sleep
IBEC performed an acoustic analysis of these recordings, which revealed significant changes in cough sounds depending on the severity of the respiratory ailment. According to the findings, this approach might be utilised to classify covid patients as mild, moderate, or severe, as well as to monitor patients with chronic covid. —ANI

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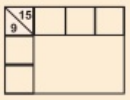
@BangaloreMirror

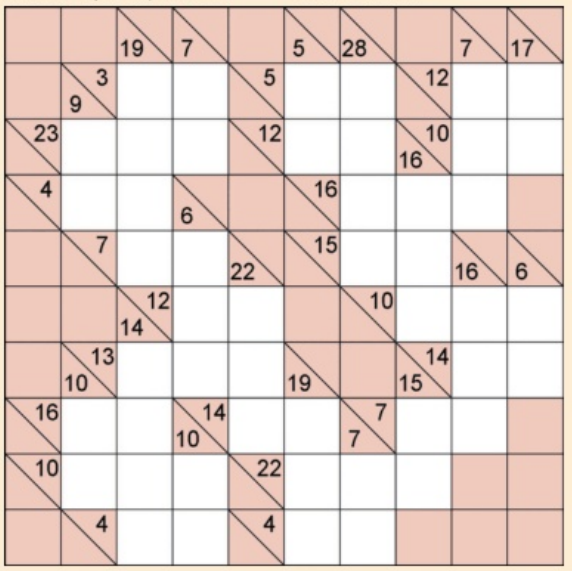
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

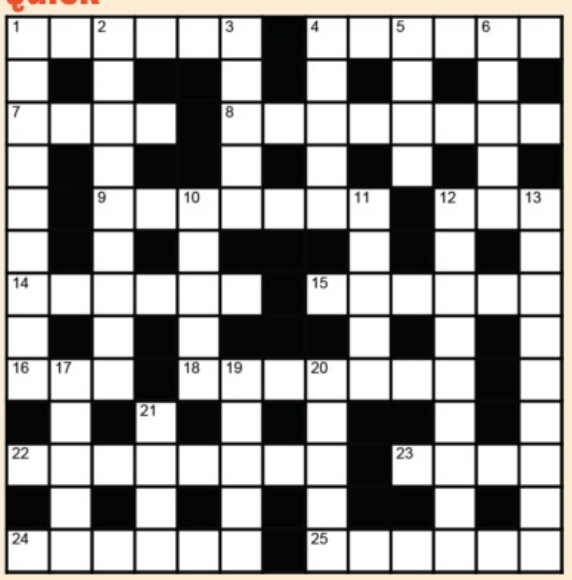


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Tastelessly gaudy (6)
4 IPL side Gujarat ___ (6)
7 Catch dropper's comment (4)
8 Long-suffering (8)
9 Ms Padukone of Bollywood (7)
12 By way of (3)
14 Behemoths (6)
15 Milk and egg drink (6)
16 A foot division (3)
18 Presumptively, self-evidently (1,6)
22 Manner (8)
23 Indian garment (4)
24 Streams or pours (6)
25 Skin inflammation (6)

DOWN

1 Nocturnal farewell (9)
2 At a __ __ : at a very fast pace? (5,4)
3 Excited (3,2)
4 Freedom is my birthright..... patriot ? (5)
5 Ripped (4)
6 ___ Hills: Scenic spot around 60 kms from Bangalore (5)
10 Wide or no-ball (5)
11 English as a prefix-as in ___- Indian or ___-phile? (5)
12 Exonerate (9)
13 Buenos Aires is its capital (9)
17 Readily available (2,3)
19 Rains heavily (5)
20 Goddess of peace (5)
21 In ___ of : instead? (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: S EQUALS H

PSC GPJXQNCGP BOQ ZQ PSC RXJMT ZG SC RSX GPOQTG OMXQC.

Linemaro

I would trust you to pick out a pet fish for me

Mindchow

Failure is not an option. Everyone has to succeed

Joke of the day

Why didn't the lifeguard save the hippie? Because he was too far out, man!

Loop

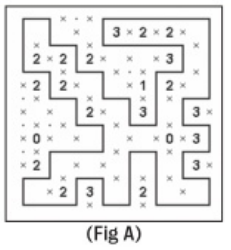
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

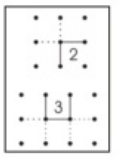
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

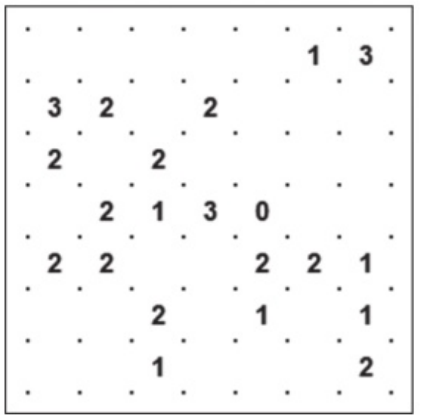
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



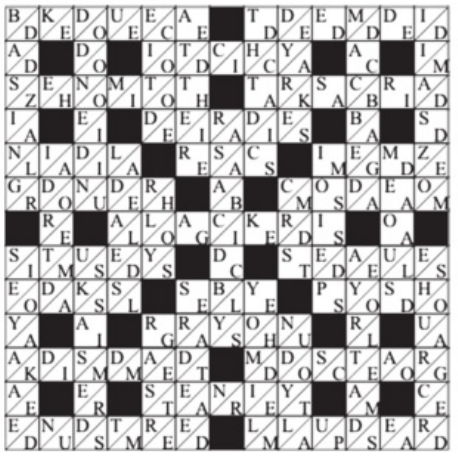
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



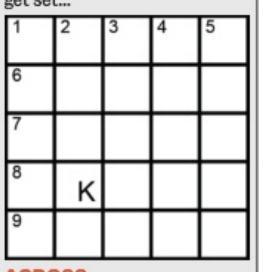
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

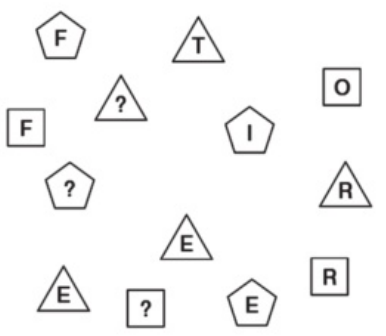
1 Stupa; 6 Shoed; 7 Or dun; 8 Us kea; 9 Blade

DOWN

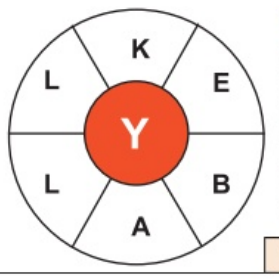
1 Brush; 2 Oap ok; 3 Luaus; 4 Teens; 5 Daded

Mensapuzzle

What letters should replace the question marks?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

06 Average; 07 Good; 09 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

3	9			5			8	7
			9		4			
	4		7		8		6	
6			1	7	9			5
9			3	4	5			6
	3		5		1		4	
			2		7			
5	2			6			9	8

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

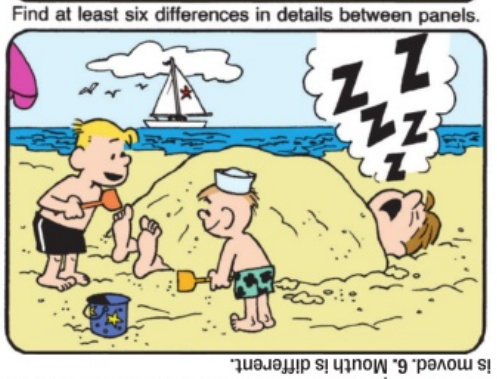
Easy = 17
2 5 6 8

Medium = 21
3 4 5 8

Hard = 30
2 7 9 5

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Stripe is added to shorts. 2. Letter "Z" is added. 3. Cap is moved. 4. Sailboat is reversed. 5. Umbrella is moved. 6. Mouth is different.

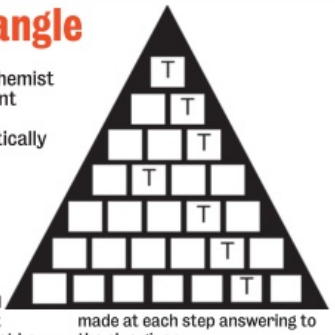
Riddler

Insert one word in each pair to link the two words together. The end of the first word is the beginning of the second.

1. Crystal __ __ __ __ Park
2. First __ __ __ __ __ Clown
3. Bed __ __ __ __ Candy

Alpha triangle

1 Terabyte
2 Astatine for the chemist
3 Treacherous rodent
4 Celestial body
5 Declaims bombastically
6 Gives or bestows
7 Gems

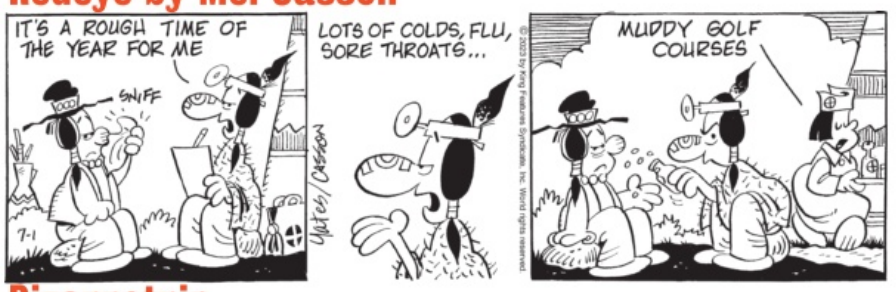


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson



Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

UGH. DETENTION SUCKS.
I WOULDN'T KNOW! I DON'T GET IN TROUBLE! AND NOW I'M IN DETENTION FOR FIGHTING ABOUT SOMETHING YOU SAID.
I SHOULDN'T EVEN BE HERE. SO YEAH, DETENTION SUCKS.
GLAD WE CAN AGREE.

Crankshaft

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today you may plan to migrate from your current place to another. It is advised to think twice before taking decisions regarding migration or a change of place. You may also plan to change jobs. There will be peace in the mind. But your kids' health might make you upset. It is advised to avoid speculation in investments.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today you may have good patience. Meditation may help you increase your concentration, which may help speed up your project. Your subordinates may cooperate with you, which may help you complete the project before the deadline. You are likely to go on some short trips related to work. An influential person may help you boost your network.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today you may be busy with family get-togethers and social events. You may become polite with people around you, which may increase your prestige among them. You may spend money on buying some artefacts or household stuff, which may improve your social status. You are likely to hear some good news from one of your relatives.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today you may be happy and blessed by the moon; you may feel healthy, which may reflect in your way of working. You may perform well in all areas of your life, which may improve your prestige. Your concentration may be very good today; you may make some difficult decisions in your business in terms of growth.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today your vital power may slow down; your old disease may reappear, which may make you upset. You are advised to avoid adventure tours or rash driving. You are advised to avoid any type of ligation; you may settle it out of the jury. You may also plan an overseas tour.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today you may start your day with happiness. At work, you may take quick decisions, which may increase your management skills and may give benefits in the near future. You may expect some new source of income, which may boost your savings. With the help of your business partner, you may invest some amount in the business.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today you may be busy at your office. Due to mental tiredness, you may not be able to give time to your family. With the help of the elder's blessings, job seekers may get a high position in the job, and managers may get promoted to top management. You may get rewards, which may increase your status. Professionally, you may do better.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today you may feel some positive vibrations around you, which may show you the right path. With the help of peace in mind, your performance on every front may be noticeable. Your destiny is with you. You may plan to visit a religious place that is somehow far from your territory. Your inner senses may ask you to do some charity. You may also hear some good news in terms of grandchildren.

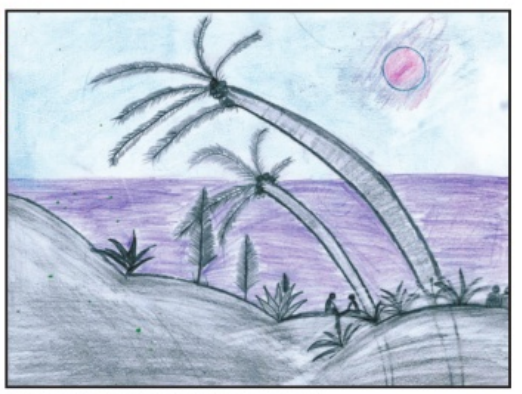
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today you may feel some internal weakness. Some major health issues may reoccur. You may not be able to enjoy it on a domestic and professional front. Running projects may stop unexpectedly, which may make you upset. You are advised to drive safely. The elder's blessing may help you come out of the messy situation.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today you may feel positive vibrations around you. Things are under control. You may plan to start a new business in a partnership. You may expect some long-distance travel as well. You will have faith in your spouse, which will bring harmony to your domestic life.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today is a good day for you. Investors may make good gains in their investments, which may boost your financial health. Money that was stuck may be recovered, which may increase liquidity in the business. You may become confident and gain control over hidden enemies and opponents. Singles will likely find their match in the same field or workplace.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today you may feel dissatisfaction; you may not be able to take on your responsibilities. Your investments may give you some losses. You are advised to read documents carefully before submitting your signature. Parents' health may make you upset. You may plan to reconstruct your office; it is advised to postpone renovation for some days.

KIDZONE



Uzma Firdose, 11 years, HBP Indian High School

Garima Jaju, 8 years, St Joseph's School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
64^1/2+16^1/4*(3)^3
= √64+4√16^27
= 8+2^27
= 54+8 = 62

RIDDLER
1. Ball,
2. Class,
3. Rock

QUOTE UNCODE
The strongest man in the world is he who stands alone.

BULL'S EYE
ably, alkyl, alley, ally, belay, belly, BLEAKLY, leaky, yell

FAST FIVE

B	A	L	E	D
U	K	A	S	E
R	O	U	N	D
H	O	S	E	D
S	P	U	T	A

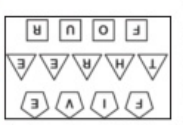
STRIKE OUT

D	E	D	U	C	E	T	E	D	D	E	D			
A	O	I	T	C	H	Y	A	I						
Z	E	N	I	T	H	A	R	A	B	I	A			
I	E	E	R	I	E	B	E	D						
N	A	I	L	R	A	S	M	E	D	E				
G	O	N	E	R	B	M	O	D	E	M				
R	A	L	G	I	E	R	S	A						
S	T	U	D	S	D	S	E	A	L	S				
O	A	K	S	S	L	Y	S	O	S	O				
A	A	R	A	Y	O	N	R	A						
K	I	S	M	E	T	D	O	C	T	O	R			
A	T	T	I	T	U	D	E	S	A	R	I			
T	O	E	A	P	R	I	O	R	I	N				
H	T	R	L	D	E									
G	I	A	N	T	S	E	G	G	N	O	G			
I	X	N	I	R										
N	D	E	P	I	K	A	V	I	A					
D	I	U	A	N	D									
O	O	P	S	T	O	L	E	R	A	N	T			
G	A	R	I	S	H	T	I	T	A	N	S			
S	P	O	U	T	S	E	C	Z	E	M	A			

QUICK

S	P	O	U	T	S		E	C	Z	E	M	A		
A		E		R		N		T			N			
A	T	T	I	T	U	D	E		S	A	R	I		
N		L		O		R		C			T			
T	O	E	A	P	R	I	O	R	I		N			
H		T		R		L		D			E			
G	I	A	N	T	S		E	G	G	N	O	G		
I		X		N		I					R			
N		D	E	P	I	K	A		V	I	A			
D		I		U		A		N		D				
O	O	P	S		T	O	L	E	R	A	N	T		
G	A	R	I	S	H		T	I	T	A	N	S		

MENSA PUZZLE



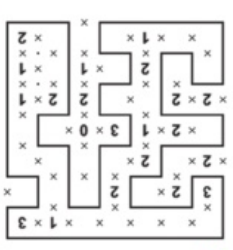
VHU: the numbers spelled out below are the number of sides in the figures in which they appear

SUDOKU

3	9	1	6	5	2	4	8	7
7	6	8	9	3	4	5	2	1
2	4	5	7	1	8	3	6	9
6	8	4	1	7	9	2	3	5
1	5	3	8	2	6	9	7	4
9	7	2	3	4	5	8	1	6
8	3	6	5	9	1	7	4	2
4	1	9	2	8	7	6	5	3
5	2	7	4	6	3	1	9	8

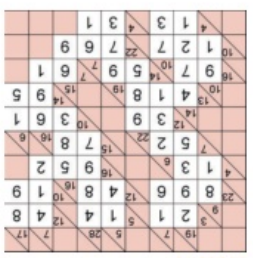
ALPHA TRIANGLE
T, At, Rat, Star, Rants, Grants, Garnets.

LOOP



GO FIGURE
Easy
8 + 5 – 2 + 6 = 17
Medium
4 + 8 – 5 x 3 = 21
Hard
9 – 5 x 7 + 2 = 30

KAKURO



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 # Police take up probe against Russell Brand
British police have opened a sex crimes investigation triggered by news reports about comedian Russell Brand

Can't touch this

Shilpa Shetty reveals how she deals with trolls and negativity on social media

Renowned Bollywood actress Shilpa Shetty is once again captivating audiences with her flawless acting in Sonal Joshi's upcoming film, 'Sukhee.' As fans eagerly anticipate her latest cinematic venture, Shetty has candidly discussed her approach to handling social media negativity in a recent interview with Curly Tales.

The actress acknowledged the prevalence of negativity on social media platforms, a challenge often faced by public figures.

However, Shilpa Shetty revealed that she doesn't let trolling and negativity affect her personally. She stated that she feels sometimes that social media also becomes a little mean because we have included them in our lives. She added that she loves most of them, and this is her way of showing a bit of love and inclusivity. Shilpa further said that sometimes, when she feels that they cross the line, she chooses to ignore those people. Shetty's positive and pragmatic approach to social media underscores her commitment to spreading love and kindness while not allowing negative elements to deter her. Her resilience in the face of online criticism serves as an example of how celebrities navigate the landscape of social media.

Meanwhile, 'Sukhee,' directed by Sonal Joshi and co-starring actress Kusha Kapila, narrates the story of Sukhee, a school favorite who, after falling in love and getting married, realizes two decades later that she should prioritize her own dreams. —ETimes

It's a wrap
Actress Sai Pallavi looks absolutely stunning in her simple, yet elegant sarees

Watch this story come alive by pointing your phone camera at the QR code

Salman unveils niece Alizeh's debut feature

Superstar Salman Khan on Monday unveiled the teaser of his niece Alizeh Agnihotri's debut film "Farrey', which will hit the theatres on November 24.

Produced by Reel Life Production, the thriller is presented by Salman Khan Films (SKF), Mythri Movie Makers, and Athena.

The film is directed by "Jamatra' fame Soumendra Padhi.

"#FarreyTeaser Out Now!" Salman wrote on his social media pages.

Mythri Movie Makers also shared the teaser.

"'Farrey' is more than just a word; it's a mystery waiting to be unravelled," the banner posted.

Alizeh is daughter of Salman's sister Alivra Khan Agnihotri and her husband, filmmaker Atul Agnihotri.

"Farrey" also stars Sahil Mehta, Zeyn Shaw, Prasanna Bisht, Ronit Bose Roy, and Juhi Babbar Soni in pivotal roles. —PTI

Just married

AAP leader Raghav Chadha and actor Parineeti Chopra, who tied the knot at a lavish ceremony in Udaipur in the presence of their close friends and family members, have arrived in the Capital.

The couple received a warm welcome at the airport. Raghav chose to wear a brown colour Kurta pyjama with a Nehru jacket while Parineeti opted for a yellow-coloured suit.

While talking to the media about the kind of attention the couple is getting on social media and the outpouring of wishes from everyone, he said, "Thank you"

Parineeti hugged her brothers, Sahaj and Shivang, and fashion designer Pawan Sachdeva.

Raghav and Parineeti never miss to give major couple goals. At the airport, Raghav cutely picked up his wife's dupatta while she made her way into their car.

Fashion designer and uncle of the groom, Pawan Sachdeva expressed his excitement about their marriage and he also opened up about the outfit of Raghav.

He told ANI, "What could be greater happiness than this, both are officially married. They are officially married now and a new joy has entered our lives. "

While talking about the social media craze, he added, "Both of them are such big personalities, they are stars of India - one from politics and the other from films. So, social media will obviously be crazy for them."

On designing Raghav's attire, he said, "I designed his outfit keeping his choices and entire theme in mind." —ANI

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Triangular love flick

Arrangements are going on in full swing to release the film Abhi Rama Chandra, a love triangle based on childhood friendship, on October 6. Its trailer was released by well-known actors Pramod Shetty and Deekshith Shetty recently. Nagendra Ganiga has helmed this movie.

Appreciating Ganiga, Pramod Shetty said he liked the way the director used Kundapura Kannada which is a little bit difficult for people in other parts of the state to understand. "One needs to have courage to use Kundapura Kannada because it is not easy to understand. The director has used the dialect very well. The director and his friends have sponsored the premier show of this movie. I am also extending my support to the director," said Shetty.

It is said the director's sister, family members, Kiran and his father supported him to complete the shoot. "I am grateful to my family members and Kiran for supporting me. We made this movie because of friendship and love. This movie may not be a great one but I am confident of movie buffs like this movie. It has four songs," said Ganiga. Ratha Kiran, one of the three heroes, said he plays Abhi in the movie. "Appu sir introduced me to Sandalwood," said Ratha Kiran.

One hero, three heroines

A Subramani of Ramagondanahalli, a realtor, has graduated to not only becoming a producer but also a director and hero in Sandalwood. Subramani plays the lead in Mr & Mrs Manmatha besides handling the megaphone and bankrolling it. The specialty of the movie is that a trans woman plays one of the three heroines. The movie's teaser and audio were launched at Renukamba Preview Theater recently.

"I have been trying to get a break as a hero in Sandalwood since 1994. I got a few roles in tele serials and played some roles in a few Kannada movies but I realised my long-pending desire of becoming a hero with Mr & Mrs Manmatha," said Subramani. Mr & Mrs Manmatha is about a dumb person with deep pockets. Two people - Jack and Jill - who have ill intentions, encourage two beautiful girls to impress Manmatha. "It is a comedy and family entertainer," he said.

Vaishali, a trans woman, said acting was her passion but no one encouraged her. "I am grateful to Subramani sir for giving me this opportunity. I play Ramya in the movie," she said.